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EXAMINER

BATES, KEVIN T

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2456

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on October 8, 2008.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14, 43, and 46 are currently amended.

Claims 52-68 are newly added.

Claims 15-42, 44-45, 47-48 and 50-51 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-14, 43, 46, 49, and 52-68 are pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 1, 4, 6, 43, 52, 55, etc. are objected to because of the following informalities: The Internet should be capitalized. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14, 43, 46, 52-66 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wallace (6564121).

Regarding claims 1 and 52, Wallace teaches an asset management system for managing a plurality of tangible assets by a remote user using a web browser, comprising:

at least one security asset manager for receiving a tangible asset (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65), comprising

an asset control system including means for receiving and releasing tangible assets (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30),

a web server coupled to the asset control system, and having an I/O unit coupled to the Internet (Col. 8, lines 4 – 8; Col. 9, lines 8 – 17),

wherein the web server stored information regarding tangible asset transactions at the asset control system and the remote user can access and control the asset management system remotely by communication via the Internet between the web browser and the web server (Col. 11, line 46 – Col. 12, line 13).

Regarding claims 2 and 53, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the server system permits the asset management system to be accessed based on one or more criteria (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30).

Regarding claims 3 and 54, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 2 and 53 wherein the server system permits the tangible assets to be removed from the stations or replaced to the stations based on the one or more criteria (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65).

Regarding claims 4 and 55, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 2 and 53, wherein the one or more criteria are provide to the web server by the remote user via the web browser via the web browser over the Internet (Col. 11, line 46 – Col. 12, line 13).

Regarding claims 5 and 56, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 2 and 53 wherein the one or more criteria comprises a user ID, a user password, and a user security access level (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65; Col. 11, line 46 – Col. 12, line 13).

Regarding claims 6 and 57, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the web server provides the web browser at the remote user over the Internet with the stored information regarding the transactions with the security asset manager (Col. 11, line 46 – Col. 12, line 13).

Regarding claim 7 and 58, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the web server stores information describing the security asset manager, the information comprising at least one of an identity, a location and an installation date of the security asset manager (Col. 9, lines 8 – 16).

Regarding claims 8 and 59, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the stored transaction information comprises at least one of a location of the security asset manager where one or more of the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, an identity of the security asset manager where the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, a date or time the tangible assets were removed, an

identifier for each of the removed the tangible assets, and an identity of one or more users that removed the tangible assets (Col. 11, lines 61 - 62).

Regarding claims 9 and 60, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the web server stores alarm information describing one or more alarm conditions to be satisfied to trigger an alarm of the asset management system (Col. 10, lines 47 – 50).

Regarding claims 10 and 61, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 9 and 60 wherein the web server sounds the alarm of at least one of the asset management system and a remote system upon determining that the one or more alarm conditions have been satisfied (Col 10, lines 47 – 50).

Regarding claims 11 and 62, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 wherein the web server provides the web browser at the remote user with one or more graphical user interfaces for accepting data used by the server system to perform at least one of permitting the asset management system to be accessed, permitting the tangible assets to be removed from the security asset manager, permitting the tangible assets to be replaced to the security asset manager, setting alarm conditions, and storing information that describes the asset management system (Col. 11, line 46 – Col. 12, line 13).

Regarding claims 12 and 63, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52 further comprising a user input interface that receives user identification information associated with a request to access the asset management system (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65).

Regarding claim 13 and 64, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 12 and 63 wherein the user input interface further comprises an access control card reader, the requester identification information being stored on an access card that is coupled to the access control card reader (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65).

Regarding claim 14 and 65, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 13 and 64 wherein the server system converts the requestor identification information from a first format to a second format (Col. 7, lines 18 – 30; lines 54 – 65).

Regarding claims 43 and 66, Wallace teaches the claims 1 and 52, wherein web server monitors one or more environmental conditions acting on the tangible asset and stores information regarding the monitored environmental conditions which can be accessed remotely by the remote user by the web browser over the Internet (Col. 8, lines 14 – 31; Col. 9, line 8 - 16).

Regarding claims 46 and 68, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claims 1 and 52, wherein security asset manager further comprises a housing for receiving the tangible asset and the web server, wherein access to the housing is controlled or monitored by the web server (Col. 7, lines 1 – 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 49 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of Blad (6675067).

Regarding claims 49 and 67, Wallace teaches the system as set forth in claim 43 and 66.

Wallace does not explicitly indicate wherein the one or more monitored environmental conditions comprises temperature.

Blad teaches a server system that remotely monitors local computers with tangible assets (Column 5, lines 59 - 67; Column 6, lines 20 - 22, where the tangible assets are the soda and cigarettes in the machine) that monitors environmental conditions of those monitored machines acting on the tangible assets (Column 6, line 65 - Column 7, line 7; where environmental conditions include temperature, product stock, machine faults, etc.).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Blad's teaching in Wallace to include temperature monitoring to ensure that the stored assets are being stored in proper conditions.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN BATES whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin Bates/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2456